

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## FY 2010 National Water Program End of Year Performance by Subobjective

The following chapters provide a summary of the progress made toward accomplishing environmental and program goals for each subobjective described in the FY 2010 *National Water Program Guidance*. Each subobjective chapter includes the following information:

- A brief summary of overall performance in 2010 and the previous four years for measures under each subobjective.
- A description of performance highlights, including what commitments were met and what factors contributed to success.
- A description of management challenges, if appropriate, identifying key factors that led to measures not being met and next steps to improve performance for the future.

Each subobjective section focuses primarily on measures with FY 2010 commitments. Indicator measures are discussed where trends significantly differ from previous year's results. Annual Commitment System (ACS) measure codes are provided in the text in parentheses.

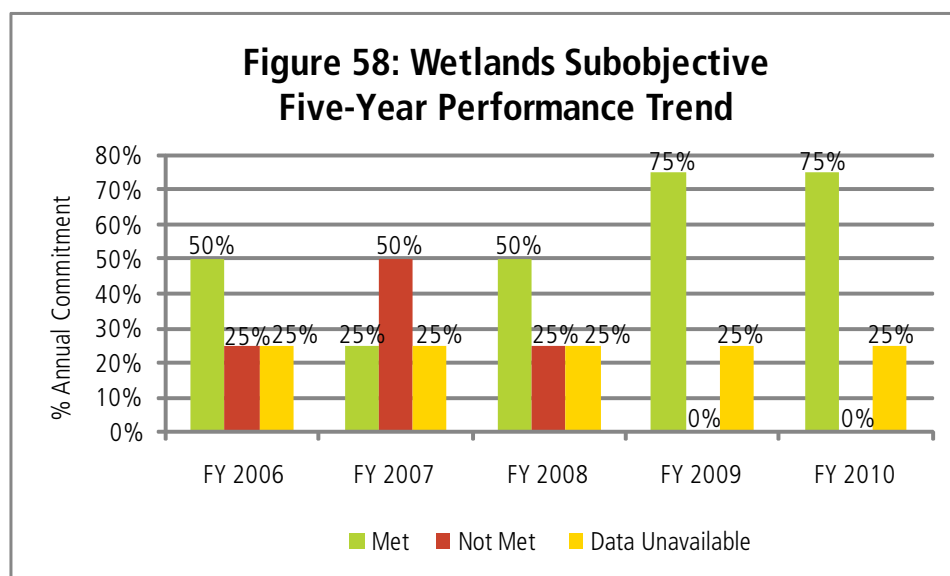
### Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

For all charts with national trend results, commitments are reflected by trend lines and results by vertical bars. For charts with regional FY 2010 results, a dotted line indicates the national FY 2010 commitment for that particular measure. Although regions use the national commitment as a point of reference in setting their annual commitments, regional commitments may vary based on different conditions. Green bars in both national and regional charts identify commitments met, and red bars identify measures not met.

For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2010 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment for FY 2010. Measures without data or not reporting in FY 2010 are indicated by "Data Unavailable." An "LT" symbol notes that the measure has a long-term goal and does not have an annual commitment. A gold star (★) in the past trends column highlights that the measure has met its annual commitment 100% of the time over the past four or five years. And finally, the appendix number represents the page in Appendix D (D-00) on the website where additional details about the measure can be found, and the figure number is the number of the chart in the chapter.

## Subobjective: Wetlands

Although EPA's Wetlands Program has had a mixed record of performance over the past five years, it has been more successful in 2009 and 2010 in meeting commitments. EPA met three of four commitments in 2010. (Figure 58)



FY 2010 ACS Code	Measure Description	Met/Not Met (I = Indicator) (Data Unavailable = No Data/Not Reporting) (LT = Long-Term Target)	Past Trends/ # of Years Met	Appendix Page Number (D-0)/ Figure Number
<b>Subobjective 4.3.2 Wetlands</b>				
SP-21	Net increase wetlands achieved	Data Unavailable	0/3	D-37
SP-22	No net loss of wetlands	▲	2/2	D-37
WT-1	Wetland acres restored and enhanced	▲	5/5 ★	D-38
WT-2a	States and tribes that have increased capacity in one or more core elements	I		D-38
WT-2b	Number of core elements developed by states and tribes	I		D-39
WT-3	404 permits with greater environmental protection	I		D-39
WT-4	States wetland condition trend has been measured	▲	4/5	D-40

## FY 2010 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

Wetlands are among our nation's most critical and productive natural resources. They provide a variety of benefits, such as water quality improvements, flood protection, shoreline erosion control, and ground water exchange. Wetlands are the primary habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife and as such, provide numerous opportunities for education, recreation, and research. EPA recognizes that the challenges the nation faces to conserve our wetland heritage are daunting and that many partners must work together for this effort to succeed.

**No Net Loss and the Number of Wetland Acres Restored/Enhanced.** In 2010, EPA, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, states, and tribes, achieved a "no net loss" of wetlands under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 regulatory program (SP-22). EPA continues to achieve this commitment through regional involvement and coordination in reviewing Section 404 permits issued by the Corps.

EPA continues to exceed expectations in the number of acres of wetlands restored and enhanced, with more than 130,000 acres restored and enhanced since 2002 (WT-1). EPA has significantly exceeded its commitment under this measure every year since 2004. While significant achievements among Five-Star grant partners have contributed, it is primarily due to the effective wetland and stream restoration work reported by NEP partners. It is often difficult to determine an accurate number of NEP habitat acres that will be improved and restored, because projects can sometimes take a number of years to design, fund, implement, and complete. For example, large restoration projects often have multiple partners, funding issues, and other problems that delay projects for years. EPA's previous commitments may have been too conservative, and the Agency has increased future targets based on these past results.

**State and Tribal Wetlands Program Capacity.** As of FY 2010, 47 states and 22 tribes have built capacities in the core program elements of wetlands monitoring, regulation, voluntary restoration and protection, and wetland water quality standards (WT-2a/b). This measure was changed in 2010 to gauge the number of states/tribes building the core elements of their programs (WT-2a), as well as the number of core elements that have been developed by states and tribes to a point of being fully functional (WT-2b). The new 2010 measure tracks closely with EPA's Core Elements Framework for State and Tribal Wetlands Program, which provides a more objective basis for measurement.

**Number of States Measuring Trends in Condition.** The number of states where the trend in wetland condition has been measured, as defined through biological metrics and assessments, increased from 20 states in FY 2009 to 22 states in FY 2010 (WT-4). This measure currently counts states that are "on track" to assess trends in wetland condition for at least 20% of their state by the end of FY 2010. Trends assessment involves establishing a baseline, then reassessing the same areas to evaluate trends. The increase among states in building wetlands monitoring programs is due to a number of factors, including: 1) active participation by approximately 40 states on the National Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Work Group, 2) involvement of eight of 10 EPA regions in the Regional Wetlands Monitoring Work Groups that facilitate data and information sharing, and 3) EPA working actively with states to plan the 2011 National Wetland Condition Assessment.

EPA was unable to report on the net increase of acres of wetlands for FY 2010 (SP-21). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to issue a draft report with the latest results in FY 2011. The result for this measure, however, does not represent real-time annual data. Data reported under this measure are pulled from the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Status and Trends Report*, which is issued every five years. The most recent report was issued in 2005 and reported that the United States gained approximately 32,000 wetland acres annually from 1998 to 2004. For FY 2008, EPA applied the 32,000 acres as the wetland gain rate and reported cumulatively from the baseline year in 2005. The next *Status and Trends Report* will be released in 2011 and will discuss the timeframe 2005–2009.